

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

CASE NO.:

RUDY FRANCOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

VINIFERA IMPORTS, LTD. INCORPORATED,
DOMINIC NOCERINO,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT
{Jury Trial Demanded}

Plaintiff, RUDY FRANCOIS (“Francois”), brings this action against Defendants, VINIFERA IMPORTS, LTD. INCORPORATED (“Vinifera”) and DOMINIC NOCERINO (“Nocerino”), and alleges as follows:

1. This is an action arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-219 (“FLSA”). Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
2. At all times material hereto, Francois was a resident of Florida and an “employee” of Defendants as defined by the FLSA.
3. At all times material hereto, Vinifera was a foreign profit corporation that regularly transacted business in Broward County, Florida.
4. Nocerino is an FLSA employer as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), is an owner and/or manager of Vinifera, ran the day-to-day operations and had operational control over Vinifera, and was directly involved in decisions affecting duties, employee compensation, and hours worked by employees, such as Francois.
5. Vinifera’s business involves wine wholesaling.

6. Defendants have employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce including but not limited to computers, phones, pens, and paper.

7. Upon information and belief, Vinifera's gross sales or business done was in excess of \$500,000 per year at all times material hereto.

8. Vinifera was an enterprise engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce and is covered by the FLSA at all times material hereto.

9. At all times material hereto, Francois engaged in interstate communication on a regular and recurrent basis including but not limited to phone and text communications with Nocerino in while he was outside Florida.

10. Francois engaged in interstate commerce on a regular and recurring basis and is individually covered by the FLSA.

11. Francois worked for Defendants as a warehouse laborer.

12. Defendants failed to pay Francois's full and proper minimum wages.

13. Defendants failed to pay Francois's full and proper overtime wages.

14. Defendants knowingly and willfully refused to pay Francois's legally-entitled wages.

15. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a preliminary calculation of Francois's claims. These amounts may change as Francois engages in the discovery process.

16. Francois retained the services of the undersigned and is obligated to pay for the legal services provided.

COUNT I
VIOLATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

17. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-16 above as if set forth herein in full.

18. Plaintiff alleges this action pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216 (b), that Plaintiff is entitled to: (i) unpaid minimum wages; (ii) time-and-a-half overtime pay, and (iii) liquidated damages pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq.

19. Plaintiff seeks recovery of damages as referenced above and further seeks interest, costs, and attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, plus costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and such other remedy as the court deems just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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